

## Three Score Years Ago

The Aftermath of our CIVIL WAR

presented opportunities to foreign investors which were fully appreciated by them.

## Today—

The Aftermath of the RECENT WAR

presents opportunities to American investors such as have never before been witnessed.

We have prepared an interesting letter setting forth some such opportunities, which letter we shall be glad to send upon request for 15¢.

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## STANDARD OIL ISSUES

## THE EFFECT OF STOCK DIVIDENDS ON STANDARD OIL PRICES

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND THE SITUATION

## Bearing of Government 6 Per Cent. Bid for Capital Upon Investment Situation.

## LOANS AND CIRCULATION

## Price Cutting Continues—Restrictions on Non-Essential Borrowings.

By WILLIAM JUSTUS BOIES.

When the United States Treasury bids 6 per cent. for a year's accommodation it is pretty sure to attract general investment support for its tax exempt securities, which is why further increase of the interest rate on Treasury bonds is of little significance in the development of far-reaching significance to the investment markets and gives rise to interesting calculations as to where the increasing cost of credit is likely to end. The United States never before offered such a high interest rate for such accommodation, but the move was made necessary by the bidding of 7 or more banks for the loan and the uncertainty of credit strain. It is fortunate that Treasury borrowings have been put on a 6 per cent. interest basis, for much of our credit strain results from cheap credit. In days following the armistice when the policies of the Federal Reserve banks were largely determined by the Government's financial requirements, although the Treasury required a 4 per cent. interest on \$1,000,000,000 of Liberty bonds, what really has happened is conversion of that funded indebtedness into temporary obligations which banks virtually have been forced to carry, which means that the Government has taken from the banks enough credit to support a floating debt of \$3,000,000,000 and made necessary for banks to consider future Government borrowings first of all in responding to needs of commercial borrowers.

## Credit Strain.

Those developments emphasize importance of money strain as the controlling influence in investment affairs during the latter half of 1920, which is likely to be an extremely difficult period in American business. Nevertheless, the one per cent. discount rate adopted a few days ago by the Federal Reserve banks of New York and Chicago, the Federal Reserve system reported last week a reserve of only 42.1 per cent., which was but a trifle more than the low record figure of 42.2 per cent. touched on May 14. Furthermore, the system established new low records for discounts and circulation, while borrowing demand continues as strong as ever, with impending corporation loans as the factor of chief significance with which the investment markets have to reckon.

## Government Expenditures.

The indications are that Treasury figures for the full fiscal year ending with this month will show total Government expenditures, apart from financing operations, of \$6,750,000,000, which would be at the rate of \$18,000,000 a day and would be only 55 per cent. of those made outgoings for the year of greatest war expenditures and fully 800 per cent. greater than that of the last pre-war year. Even Great Britain, which surely had larger outlays than we ever had, will show expenditures of only 740 per cent. more than those of the pre-war year, the total being about \$6,000,000,000, and the decline from the year of largest war outlays 35 per cent. Governmental costs, including money at an unanticipated rate, but it is to be noted that the 6 per cent. interest rate may influence a reduction of such outlays. That rate for Government borrowings ought to make Washington officials stop and think what such trifles as \$400,000,000 note issues cost a people already overburdened with high record living expenses.

## Railroad Reconstruction.

The railroads are in need of capital and must have it. Immense grants for new equipment and rolling stock of the sort that would be likelihood of having another such freight blockade as the country had just passed through have been given out. Large advances have been made to some roads out of the \$300,000,000 revolving fund provided by the transportation act of 1920, and several roads of good credit have applied successfully to the investment markets through the sale of short term securities and equipment and certificates. But these roads have not been served for fully, and must be helped by the Interstate Commerce Commission if they are to be kept going. Reduction in Northwestern dividends was not looked forward to and emphasized the difficulty experienced by some of the best known roads in strengthening sufficiently their financial position to justify the continuance of current dividends.

## Large Maturities.

Besides caring for present requirements, the roads have to consider large maturities of next year, when \$34,000,000 of obligations will fall due. This is the most probable time for such credits as a year, and means that the railroads will have to renew such portion of that indebtedness as can be extended on a 6 or 7 per cent. interest basis against a 4 or 5 per cent. level when the original advances were made, which add to fixed charges and make it necessary for roads to strengthen their revenue account in accordance with provisions of the transportation act of 1920, insuring at least a 5 per cent. return on property invested. That return must be forthcoming, as it is guaranteed by the act, and the Interstate Commerce Commission will have to provide for it.

## Railroad Securities.

That protection explains the relative strength displayed by seasoned railroad securities throughout the liquidating period and accounts for quiet buying by hard-headed investors, who appreciate the changed position of the transportation industry under the new law to effect. It is therefore important to which specific income return is guaranteed against all contingencies—such as wage increases and exorbitant prices for supplies. Many roads are in deplorable physical condition as a consequence of high pressure war business at a time when scarcely any repair work was undertaken or new equipment added. Those defects must be remedied and roads put in shape for proper service during the season when crops are being harvested and new districts developing enormous merchandising needs which must be handled in the fall. The probability is that carriers will get the assistance they need to meet those necessities, as the people realize as they have never realized before that lost freight means dead credit, which in a 7 or 8 per cent. money market, becomes an enormously expensive luxury. The economic waste represented by a huge freight blockade in the country of 130,000,000 tons of refrigerated and alert people is about as shameful an occurrence as an intelligent public can be guilty of.

## Foreign Credits.

Banks are formulating gradually a programme for essential lending, as the whole country has come to realize that

only productive loans should be made with Federal reserve basis as low as it is and total borrowing demand almost unprecedented. The Reserve Board has not indicated its attitude toward foreign credits, many of which fall in the essential class, being vital to the welfare of foreign consumers and necessary for continued prosperity of those American producers who do a lucrative business abroad. Those loans were never harder to handle, because of unsettled conditions, but the present peace is likely to get them in very good shape to future prominently in the money market outlook for many months. Their status under the new order of things must be defined sooner or later, but the probability is that every bank will determine the question without a general ruling by the Reserve Board.

British exports in May touched a new high record of \$119,318,632 and British imports were the lowest of any month in the year and were \$11,221,051, which brings the import excess for May down to \$47,059,000 and shows that Great Britain is making notable headway in recovering her foreign trade position. But the people of other nations less fortunately situated are in a deplorable position and ought to receive such assistance as the craze is popular and merchants generally are reducing prices and organizing sales calculated to increase public consumption of goods. It is difficult to say whether the price cutting movement has become aroused against high living costs and factors which bring them about. The work of financing the world back to a peace basis is progressing and the time when war prices will give way to peace prices in industries not affected by price cutting movements apparently is not far off. When

that movement is concluded it will take less credit to finance day to day business and the country will be in a position to undertake many constructive enterprises which have had to be held in abeyance during acute credit strain.

## Effects of Deflation.

The readjustment caused by deflation is always painful, but is highly beneficial in the long run. The country is getting down gradually to a price basis at which consumption will enlarge and expenses be reduced. The movement has just begun, but it is gaining momentum because the craze is popular and merchants generally are reducing prices and organizing sales calculated to increase public consumption of goods. It is difficult to say whether the price cutting movement has become aroused against high living costs and factors which bring them about. The work of financing the world back to a peace basis is progressing and the time when war prices will give way to peace prices in industries not affected by price cutting movements apparently is not far off. When

## STOCK EXCHANGE SALES.

New York Stock Exchange sales week ended June 12 <sup>th</sup>						
STOCKS.						
Monday .....	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915
Tuesday .....	381,012	386,139	367,861	357,543	347,543	337,543
Wednesday .....	314,765	332,286	312,045	302,045	292,045	282,045
Thursday .....	358,049	325,510	304,710	294,710	284,710	274,710
Friday .....	381,474	347,474	327,474	307,474	287,474	267,474
Saturday .....	318,050	322,900	312,900	302,900	292,900	282,900
Total .....	3,354,466	3,373,817	3,465,753	3,465,753	3,465,753	3,465,753
Year to date .....	117,797,079	118,022,528	118,706,241	118,706,241	118,706,241	118,706,241

## BONDS (PAR VALUE).

1920 1919

\$18,925,000 \$18,925,000

\$14,374,000 4,183,000

14,785,000 4,085,000

13,750,000 3,004,000

Total \$84,433,000 \$85,322,000

\$125,803,329 66,756,241

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100 New Jersey Zinc "Rights"

100 N. Y. State Ry. Com. &amp; Pfd.

100 N.Y. Stock Exchange Co.

100 Ward-Huntington Com. &amp; Pfd.

100 Westinghouse Electric Co.

1000 Standard Oil Co. of N. J.

1250 Standard